
Indiana Land Resources Council

A report on the Council's work in 2000



Development on the west side of Marion County near Eagle Creek.

State of Indiana
Frank O'Bannon, Governor
Joseph E. Kernan, Lieutenant Governor and
Commissioner of Agriculture



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Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC)

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The Increasing Importance of Land Use Decisions

Indiana's increasing population and expanding economy are placing unprecedented pressure on the state's land base. Urban sprawl — particularly the paving of large segments of land — is significantly impacting Indiana's landscape and the condition of our natural resources.

Land use decisions are best made at the local level where communities are well-equipped to discuss property rights, zoning options and new developments. These kinds of decisions cover issues such as residential development in rural areas, new services, protection of prime farmland, the impact of increased traffic and the preservation of natural resources. Finding the best solutions to these complex issues requires education, communication and individual involvement.

According to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, Indiana has lost 500,000 acres of farmland over the last five years to other uses. This is an average of 100,000 acres per year. This is the equivalent to losing an area the size of all the farmland in either Clark, Fayette, Warrick or Owen counties. It's a prime example of how land use issues, including loss and/or conversion of productive farmland, are becoming significant concerns in many areas of Indiana.

In 1996, shortly after Indiana Farm Bureau Inc. released a report on farmland preservation, the Indiana

Land Use Consortium was organized. The consortium is an informal group of organizations and individuals concerned about the demands being placed on Indiana's natural resources. Their work has broadened the land use agenda and raised the level of awareness on land use issues.



In 1997, Governor Frank O'Bannon commissioned the Hoosier Farmland Preservation Task Force to study the issue of farmland preservation. The 19-member bipartisan and multi-industry group was chaired by Lt. Governor Joe Kernan. Governor O'Bannon asked the task force to study the trends, causes and consequences of the conversion of farmland in Indiana. The task force researched the issues and provided nine recommendations to the governor and legislature in 1999. The first recommendation was to establish an Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC).

In February of 2000, the newly appointed Council met for the first time.

Meet the ILRC members and director on page 2.

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Meet the Indiana Land Resources Council

Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon signed into law the Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC) legislation in 1999. In January of 2000, the governor announced Council appointments. ILRC members and the sectors they represent are listed below.

Academia

Dr. Eric Damian Kelly, Muncie

Kelly is professor of urban planning at Ball State University. He is recognized nationally as a consultant on planning and land use issues.

Business Vacant

County Government

David Hess, Elkhart

Hess serves as the Elkhart County administrator. Prior to that, he served as an Elkhart County commissioner for 10 years and as a past president of the state commissioners' association.

Environment

Mary McConnell, McCordsville

McConnell is the state director for the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The organization has established 170 nature preserves in Indiana, protecting over 38,000 acres of land since the late 1950s.

Farm Owners

Bob Guernsey, Lebanon

Guernsey is a grain and livestock producer in Boone County. He also is a former county commissioner.

Forestry

Samuel Smith, Borden

Smith is director of business development for Koetter Woodworking

leadership, Bloomington has expanded its greenspace and park lands by over 200 acres using innovative land use tools such as conservation easements and



Indiana Land Resources Council members are (from the left, front row): Mary McConnell, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, Chair, and Samuel Smith. In the back row (from the left): David Hess,

P. Riely O'Connor, Don Strietelmeier, Dr. Eric Damian Kelly, Bob Guernsey, and John Fernandez.

and president of Koetter & Smith, Inc. He is immediate past president of the Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association.

Home Building/Land Development

P. Riely O'Connor, South Bend

O'Connor is president of Landsource, Inc., an Elkhart-based firm specializing in predevelopment consulting and development construction management. He is a life director of the Indiana Builders Association.

Municipal Government

Mayor John Fernandez, Bloomington

Fernandez has been mayor of Bloomington for six years. Under his

neo-urban planning policies, while increasing downtown housing and serving the community's growing economy.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Don Strietelmeier, Hope

Strietelmeier is a crop, beef cattle and timber producer in Bartholomew County. He has served as a local supervisor on the county Soil and Water Conservation District Board for 12 years, and as secretary, vice president and president of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Meet the ILRC Director

One of the first organizational responsibilities of the Indiana Land Resources Council was to select a director, Joe Tutterrow.

According to Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, "Joe brings a wealth of experience to the Council. He has the knowledge base and appreciation for land utilization that is critical as the Indiana Land Resources Council moves forward."



Tutterrow graduated from Purdue University with a degree in forest management. His 18-year career with state government began with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 1982.

In 1995, Tutterrow was named an assistant state forester for DNR's forestry division. In this capacity, he was responsible for leading six major statewide programs including urban forestry, fire management, forestry education, forest health, utilization and marketing, and licensing programs.

"The Council has a tremendous opportunity to partner with communities throughout the state as we attempt to clarify a shared vision of Indiana's landscape for our children," said Tutterrow.

Tutterrow lives in Morgan County with his wife, Nancy, and two children, Steven and Katie. On the community level, he serves as steering committee chair for the Mooresville Business Education Community Partnership.

The Indiana Land Resources Council Mandate

The purpose of the Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC) is to collect information and provide assistance and advice to local governments regarding land use strategies and issues across the state.

The Indiana General Assembly, under IC 15-7-9-6, identified the following goals for the Council:

- (1) Provide technical assistance and information about land use strategies.
- (2) Facilitate collaboration among commonly affected state, county and local government units.
- (3) Compile and maintain a land use planning information library, both hard copy and electronic, that includes current data on land resources in Indiana.
- (4) Establish or coordinate educational programs for governmental units, nongovernmental units, and the public — with special consideration for local planning commission members and county commissioners.
- (5) Provide counties and local communities conducting land use planning with access to technical and legal assistance through a referral service.
- (6) Provide information to local authorities on model ordinances for programs and techniques on land use.
- (7) Obtain grants and assist counties and local communities in locating additional funding sources for planning projects.
- (8) Make recommendations to the Indiana General Assembly and other governmental bodies concerning land resources.
- (9) Advise the Indiana General Assembly, when requested, on proposals relating to land resources.

To successfully meet the legislative mandate, the Council works with groups involved with land-use decisions. The collaboration and cooperation of these groups is a priority of the ILRC. The agencies and organizations listed below are recognized as key cooperators with the ILRC. Other organizations will be added as they are identified:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Association of County Commissioners | ■ Indiana Farm Bureau Inc. |
| ■ Center for Urban Policy and the Environment at IUPUI | ■ Indiana Farmers Union |
| ■ Hoosier Environmental Council | ■ Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association |
| ■ Indiana Association of Cities and Towns | ■ Indiana Heritage Trust Program |
| ■ Indiana Association of Counties | ■ Indiana Land Use Consortium |
| ■ Indiana Association of Realtors | ■ Indiana Main Street Program |
| ■ Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts | ■ Indiana Manufacturer's Association |
| ■ Indiana Beef Cattle Association | ■ Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association |
| ■ Indiana Builders Association | ■ Indiana Planning Association |
| ■ Indiana Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society | ■ Indiana Pork Producers Association |
| ■ Indiana Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development | ■ Indiana Rural Development Council |
| ■ Indiana Department of Transportation | ■ Indiana State Poultry Association |
| ■ Indiana Department of Commerce | ■ Indiana Urban Forest Council |
| ■ Indiana Department of Environmental Management | ■ Interagency Brownfields Task Force |
| ■ Indiana State Department of Health | ■ Keep Indianapolis Beautiful |
| ■ Indiana Department of Natural Resources | ■ Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture |
| ■ Indiana Development Finance Authority | ■ Purdue Cooperative Extension Service - Land Use Training Team |
| | ■ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service |

American Voter Survey on Land Use Planning

A survey of American voters conducted by the American Institute of Certified Planners and the American Planning Association released in December 2000 indicates:*

There is broad support for a federal land use agenda — with 78% of voters wanting the U.S. Congress to provide tools and resources to help communities solve problems associated with urban growth and land use issues.

Fifty-three percent of voters favor new laws to manage growth at the local level and 55% favor legislation to contain land use or urban growth requirements.

A majority of American voters want better communities and support stronger laws — at both the local and federal levels — to ensure a high quality of life in our cities, towns and suburbs.

Adequate schools and educational facilities are the highest ranking concerns among 76% of American voters.

**Results of the survey were based on 1,000 telephone interviews randomly selected throughout the U.S. of likely voters aged 18 or older. Data was weighed by education, race and political party identification to ensure the polling sample accurately reflected the electorate.*

A Look Back at 2000 — The Indiana Land Resources Council's First Year

The Indiana Land Resources Council held seven public meetings in 2000 — a year devoted to information gathering. During these meetings, a number of men and women made presentations that provided the ILRC with important building blocks for their future work. A summary of their presentations appear on the following pages (4-8).

Land Use, the ILRC and Local Emphasis

- *Phil Anderson*, executive vice president of the Indiana Beef Cattle Association and chairman, Indiana Land Use Consortium, provided information on the Consortium and its role in land-use discussions and impact on local communities.
- *Robert Kleinops*, developer and member of the Hoosier Farmland Preservation Task Force, provided an overview of the task force and the 1999 recommendations made to Governor Frank O'Bannon and the Indiana General Assembly.
- *Wendy Dant*, executive director, Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC), presented the IRDC's annual report and discussed the role the IRDC has with rural communities.
- *State Senator David Ford* spoke to the Council about a balanced approach to planning sustainable community growth — and emphasized that the land-use issue in Indiana is much larger than just farmland preservation. He stressed that local communities know best how to manage growth and make decisions that are good for local citizens.

The Scope of Land Use Issues — A Natural Resource Focus

- *Dr. Burnell Fischer*, State Forester, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, provided an overview of Indiana's forest resources. His presentation focused on the changing status of Indiana's forest land base.
- *Susan McLoud*, Chief, Watershed Assessment Branch, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), discussed Indiana's water resources. She communicated the efforts IDEM is making to monitor water bodies in

Indiana to establish baseline water quality data.

- *Cloyce Hedge*, Director, Indiana Natural Heritage Data System, presented information on Indiana wildlife, nature preserves, endangered species and aquatic resources. Hedge outlined the role his agency has in collecting and analyzing natural habitat data in Indiana. The agency serves as a resource to many groups and state agencies on Indiana's natural resources.
- *Ron Lauster*, State Resource Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service,

Land Use Tools Currently Utilized in the United States

Indiana currently utilizes five of the following 10 tools.

Agricultural District – A legally recognized geographic area voluntarily designed to keep land in agriculture. [15 states using/**not Indiana.**]

Property Tax Relief – Includes differential assessments, deferments, exemptions and credits. [50 states using/**including Indiana.**]

Agricultural Zoning – Local (county) land-use regulation that limits non-farm uses. [14 states using/**including Indiana.**]

Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements – Farmers receive payment to keep their land available for agriculture. [18 states using/**not Indiana.**]

Comprehensive Growth Management – A state, regional, county or municipal government program to control the timing, location and character of land development. [10 states using/**not Indiana.**]

Right-to-Farm – A state law or local ordinance that protects farmers and farm operations from public and private nuisance lawsuits. [50 states using/**including Indiana.**]

Conservation Easements – Legally recorded, voluntary agreements that limit land to specific uses. [40 states using/**including Indiana.**]

State Policies – Includes impact statements, Executive Orders, exemptions and limits. [23 states using/**including Indiana.**]

Death Taxes – Differential tax assessment for real estate or inheritance purposes. [11 states using/**not Indiana.**]

Transfer of Development Rights – Allows landowners to transfer the right to develop one parcel of land to a different parcel of land to prevent conversion. [6 states using/**not Indiana.**]

— Source: American Farmland Trust

showed a video on “America’s Working Lands.” He told the ILRC that 75 percent of America’s land is in private ownership and 70 percent of U.S. wildlife is on private lands. Lauster spoke about the need to keep topsoil in place to preserve the protective cover on the land. He stressed the role that Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will have on future decision-making.

- **Alan Dunn**, Assistant Director, Indiana State Department of Health, gave a presentation on septic issues. He talked about pathogens and chemicals in domestic wastewater and how these issues play a role in land use decisions.

Development and Transportation Infrastructure

The Indiana Builders Association provided a panel discussion on land use issues titled *Indiana Builders Association Housing & Farmland Preservation: Common Goals*. Panel members were:

- **Mark Boyce**, Vice President, Land Development, C.P. Morgan Company, Carmel
- **Dave Compton**, Vice President, R. N. Thompson Development, Indianapolis
- **Herb Delagrang**, President, Indiana Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis and President, Colonial Homes & Development, Fort Wayne
- **Steve Landis**, CEO, Indiana Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis

A panel of experts presented a session on Transportation Infrastructure Land Use Issues in Indiana — from the federal, state and local perspectives. Panel members were:

- **Gary White**, Assistant Administrator, U.S. Federal Highway Administration (federal)

- **Steve Cecil**, Deputy Commissioner, Indiana Department of Transportation (state)
- **Chris Larson**, Executive Director, Kankakee-Iroquois Planning Commission (local)

Academic Resources in Indiana

The Purdue Land Use Team provided a presentation on land use issues from an educational perspective. Team members included:

- **Dr. Janet Ayres**, Department of Agricultural Economics
- **Scott Hutcheson**, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
- **Mark Spelbring**, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
- **Dr. Bill Hoover**, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment at IUPUI presented information on the Center’s applied re-

search and policy initiatives. The presentation was made by:

- **Dr. Greg Lindsey**, Associate Director
- **Jamie Palmer**, Planner/Research Associate

Lindsey and Palmer presented an overview of the *Central Indiana Growth and Land-use Initiative*. The study looked at 44 counties in central Indiana. It provides the most current data on land use trends and includes “rate-of-change” information and an inventory of planning and zoning for counties in the study area.

The Council heard from planning professors who discussed land use planning in rural communities. The presentations were made by:

- **Dr. John Motloch**, Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture, Ball State University
- **Dave Ferguson**, Director, the Land Design Institute, Ball State University

The Changing Landscape in Central Indiana



Geist Reservoir 1985 — 2,820 acres developed.



Geist Reservoir 2000 — 9,465 acres developed.

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment’s study includes aerial photos of Geist Reservoir in northeastern Marion County to show urban growth in central Indiana.

The two images shown here illustrate examples of urban growth over a 15-year period.

The black mass in each photo is the reservoir. The darker gray areas represent development.

Total acres developed in 1985 (top photo) was 2,820. Developed acreage increased in 2000 to 9,465. This is a 336% increase in just 15 years.

Geographic Information Systems

The topic of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) was the focus of Council presentations by:

- **Dr. Jill Saligoe-Simmel**, Senior Research Associate, Polis Center at IUPUI.

Key points of her presentation were:

- GIS involves electronic mapping as well as “smart mapping” — maps supported by databases.
- Digital ortho-photography allows the viewer to see features on the land including contours and soil types which assist in zoning decisions.
- Currently, only five Indiana counties have online GIS systems. They are: Hamilton, Johnson, Marion, Monroe and Tippecanoe.
- There is need for a statewide, integrated GIS system with standards.
- There is an urgent need to share GIS information.
- Most counties want GIS guidelines so there is opportunity for cooperation on a community level.
- Geographical data exists in Indiana, however, there is no central location or common format for the information.
- The ILRC should support the Indiana Geographic Data Framework and other GIS initiatives.

- **Roger Koelpin**, State GIS Coordinator, Data Processing Oversight Commission

According to Koelpin, there are two parallel initiatives underway in Indiana:

- The State GIS Task Force is comprised of state agency GIS coordinators.
- The Indiana GIS Initiative is comprised of organizations from outside state government.

Both initiatives seek to provide direction and GIS standards for Indiana.

Current Research Planning in Central Indiana

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment at IUPUI recently completed a study of 44 counties in central Indiana (see map below) to determine:

- How do local governments plan for growth?
- How do we protect farmland and other important natural resources?
- What tools do communities need to manage land-use?

- What resources do communities need to reach their land-use goals?

IUPUI's research shows that of the 44 counties in central Indiana:

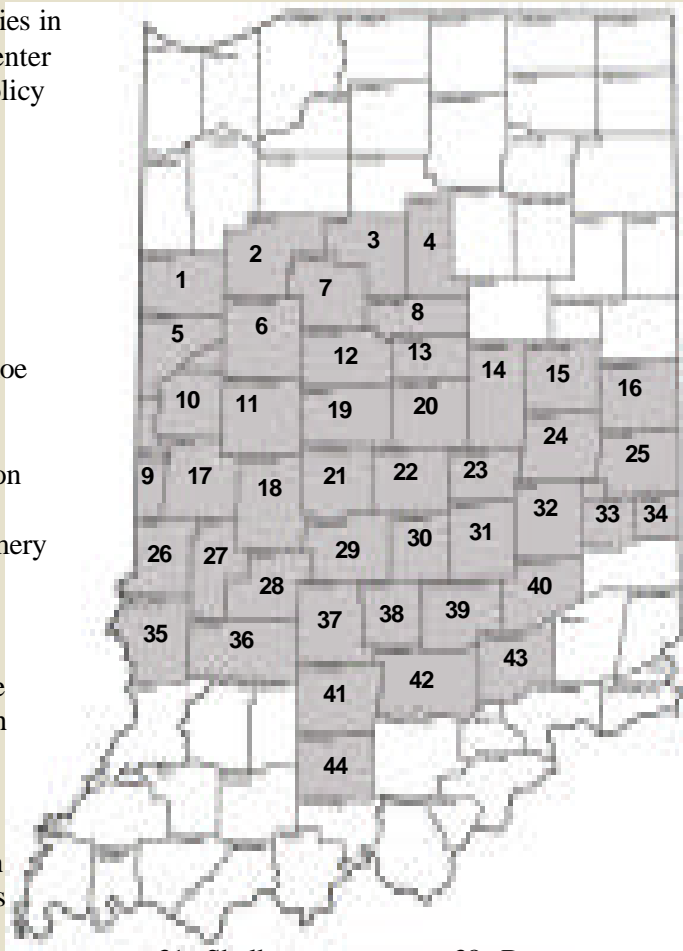
- 38 have subdivision regulations.
- 35 have Plan Commissions.
- 35 have zoning ordinances and maps.
- 34 have comprehensive plans.
- 32 have zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations.
- 9 have no planning or zoning.

Central Indiana Growth and Land Use Initiative

A 44-County Study by the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment at IUPUI

The 44 counties in the IUPUI Center for Urban Policy study are:

1. Benton
2. White
3. Cass
4. Miami
5. Warren
6. Tippecanoe
7. Carroll
8. Howard
9. Vermillion
10. Fountain
11. Montgomery
12. Clinton
13. Tipton
14. Madison
15. Delaware
16. Randolph
17. Parke
18. Putnam
19. Boone
20. Hamilton
21. Hendricks
22. Marion
23. Hancock
24. Henry
25. Wayne
26. Vigo
27. Clay
28. Owen
29. Morgan
30. Johnson



31. Shelby
32. Rush
33. Fayette
34. Union
35. Sullivan
36. Greene
37. Monroe
38. Brown
39. Bartholomew
40. Decatur
41. Lawrence
42. Jackson
43. Jennings
44. Orange

For more information on the study, contact the Center at (317) 261-3000.

Planning and Zoning

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment's study shows that few counties integrate land use planning incentives into the overall county strategy.

Of the 44 central Indiana counties surveyed, only:

- 16 counties have Advisory Plan Commissions which also plan for unincorporated areas.
- 10 counties have a capital or transportation improvement plan.
- 6 counties have incentives for providing open space or protecting natural resources.
- 3 counties have density bonuses or other incentives for desirable development.
- 1 county provides incentives for mixed income housing.
- 1 county provides for location of housing in designated zones.

Additional findings from the study area include:

- There are 17 Area Plan Commissions that impact 56 municipalities.
- Metropolitan Plan Commissions exist in two counties:
 - Marion County
 - Delaware County
- Counties with planning were generally more urban.
- Most counties (94%) have agricultural use zones.
- Most counties (84%) provide for Planned Unit Development (PUD) zones.
- Most counties have some environmental regulation.
- Some innovative thought regarding infrastructure standards exists.
- Counties use few innovative development standards.
- Few counties offer incentives to encourage "desirable" development.
- No counties use incentives for infill development, develop-

ment near transit stops, or transfer of development rights.

Training and Education

Purdue's Cooperative Extension Service provides the most current land use planning information available on a statewide basis. Extension educators have identified 25 counties which are currently in the process of updating their comprehensive plans and/or ordinances. Three additional counties are investigating or seeking support.

Extension educators are available to provide educational programs to plan commissions to all Indiana counties. In addition, educators are delivering land-use educational programs to civic organizations, the general public, schools and other clientele groups in another 34 counties.

The Purdue Cooperative Extension Service and the College of Architecture and Planning at Ball State University provide educational workshops for plan commission members, boards of zoning appeals members, elected officials, professional planners, planning and zoning staff and others involved or interested in this decision making process. Over 1,000 public officials have attended 20 workshops since 1997.

Sessions planned for 2001 include:

- (1) Rolling Up Our Sleeves: The Nitty-Gritty Work of Plan Commissions, Mar. 7, Danville
- (2) Making Zoning Work: Enforcement & Administration, Mar. 22, Columbus
- (3) Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning, Mar. 28, Noblesville
- (4) Growth Management: Smart Growth, Apr. 10, Fort Wayne

For information on these workshops, contact Mark Spelbring at (765) 494-4312.

Purdue Extension, in conjunction with the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program, is introducing the "Planning with POWER" (Protecting Our Water

and Environmental Resources) program to Indiana. You can receive more information on this program by calling (765) 496-6026.

Brownfields

The Indiana Development Finance Authority (IDFA) defines a brownfield as an industrial or commercial property that is abandoned, inactive or under-utilized, upon which expansion or redevelopment is complicated due to actual or perceived environmental contamination. There are brownfields located in communities throughout the State of Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Envi-

"We have to take a hard look at what has already been developed and see how much we can utilize what's already there. One of the tragedies we have in urban sprawl is we bypass so much real estate that is really unused and under-utilized."

Al Oak, President and CEO
Paul I. Cripe, Inc., Indianapolis
— Issues in Business Magazine
February 1998

ronmental Management (IDEM) and IDFA administer Indiana's Brownfield Program.

IDEM and IDFA can assist a local community with brownfield redevelopment by providing:

- Financial assistance
 - Creation of tax abatement zones.
 - Grant funding.
 - Low interest loans.
- Technical assistance
 - Brownfield Environmental Assessment (BEA).
 - Comfort and Site Status letters that limit liability of past actions by previous ownership.
- Community assistance, outreach and education
 - Indiana Brownfields Advisory Team (IBAT) members are

(Continued on page 8)

available for project-specific meetings with local communities.

- The Abandoned Tank Community Assistance Program (ATCAP) is available to local units of government.

Future Research

The ECASE Project

“Effects of Land-Use Decisions on Natural Resources in the Upper Wabash” — the ECASE Project (Engaging Citizens As Stewards of Ecosystems) Project — is a new research initiative at Purdue University. This project is expected to last seven years.

The Upper Wabash River Basin in central Indiana is the initial focus of ECASE. The Wabash River is the longest free-flowing river in the U.S. east of the Mississippi. The focal basin encompasses about five million acres and lies within the central Hardwood Forest Region (north central area of Indiana — see the map on this page). The area contains the rich and productive soils of the Tipton Till Plain.

Historically, much of the basin was heavily forested with oak, hickory, beech and maple trees. Today, the

dominant land use is production agriculture. However, urbanization is rapidly increasing in several areas of the basin.

The ECASE Mission

The ECASE mission is based on land use strategies that will satisfy personal and community goals and are consistent with sound stewardship of natural resources and the ecosystems within which they occur.

ECASE seeks to:

- 1) Form partnerships with stakeholders;
- 2) Determine distribution and roles of natural resources;
- 3) Determine values, attitudes and uses regarding natural resources;
- 4) Develop tools to evaluate ecosystem health; and
- 5) Develop decision tools that can be utilized in land-use planning.

ECASE — Upper Wabash River Basin



The Purdue University Department of Forestry and Natural Resources leads the ECASE research effort. The first phase will focus on the Upper Wabash River Basin in central Indiana (circled area shown above).

Indiana's Land Use Future is in Our Hands

“A thing is right when it preserves the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.”

— Aldo Leopold, ecologist

The Indiana Land Resources Council recognizes the importance and scope of its charge and brings together a wealth of knowledge and experience to address land use issues. The Council appreciates the importance of teamwork and collaboration and will work to provide the resources necessary to ensure a high quality of life for Indiana's future generations.

Too often communities have grown without looking at the long-term consequences of their decisions. As a result, land use planning has not been part of the development equation. However, Indiana's land use debate encompasses much more. In addition to planning, it includes brownfields and urban redevelopment, forests, septic systems, water quality, economic development, community growth, farm-

land preservation, and most importantly, citizen input. Our biggest land use challenge is to determine how communities can grow without losing the features that made them attractive in the first place.

The key to making this happen is to start at the local level. State and local leaders must work together to identify the appropriate land use tools needed to make sound decisions. This is why the Indiana Land Resources Council is so crucial to the state's overall land use planning efforts.

As Leopold suggests, we must make responsible decisions in order to preserve the future of our communities. Join the Indiana Land Resources Council as we move forward. The only way that we can accomplish our goal of helping communities make responsible decisions is to set aside personal agendas and work together. In the end, we must all live with the consequences of our decisions...the future is at stake.

Do You Know . . .

Indiana ranks second nationally with 58% prime and unique farmland.

Illinois is first with 59%.

Source: American Farmland Trust



Indiana lost six million acres (28%) of its farmland between 1900 and 1992 to other uses. That is an average of 65,000 acres per year. Of that total, 1.2 million acres were lost between 1978 and 1992, or an average of 88,714 acres per year. However, over the last five years, Indiana has lost 500,000 acres of farmland, or an average of 100,000 acres per year, to other uses.

Source: Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service



Nationally, 11 million acres of land were developed over the five-year period 1992-1997 (or an average of 2.2 million acres per year). That compares to 14 million acres of land developed over the 10-year period of 1982-1992 (or an average of 1.4 million acres per year).

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service National Resources Inventory



More than 50 communities in Indiana use surface water (reservoirs or rivers) for their drinking water.

Source: Purdue Cooperative Extension Service



One-third of Indiana's population, or approximately 1.8 million people, are not connected to sewer systems.

Source: Purdue University, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering



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